# Azerbaijan Khanates

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4. **The historical condition of establishment Azerbaijani Khanates**

The second half of the XVlll century feudal fragmentation, the weakness of economic relations, and advantage of natural economy didn’t allow founding a centralized state. Azerbaijan divided independent and semi-independent **khanates, sultanates and meliks**. İn 40s in Southern Azerbaijan founded **Tabriz, Urmia, Khoy, Garadagh, Sarab, Maraga, Maku khanates**. North Azerbaijani lands between Araz –Kura rivers **Karabakh khanate**, from the series of Murovdagh until the Kura River areas **Ganja khanate**, in the plains of Shirvan **Shamakhi khanate** was founded. Azerbaijan's north-east, **Quba, Baku and Darband khanates,** south-east of the Caspian Sea shore created as **Lankaran khanate** state structures. Also were available **Ilisu, Gabala, Arash, Kazakh and Shamsaddil sultanates.** İn the North East from Shamsaddil were located **Jar-Balakan** population. **Khacin, Varanda, Dizag, Gulustan (Talish) Chilebord** meliks also created under the supervision of the Karabakh khanate.

**Urmia khanate(1747-1763)**

* **Urmia** khanate founded in **1747** by **Fatali Khan Afshar (1747-1763).**

He was the cousin of Nadir shah. In this period in Iran for the central government Fatali khan Afshar, Karim khan Zand and Agha Mohamed khan Gajar were fought with one another.

* Fatali khan Afsar in **1752** in **Miana and Gamsha** battles in **1761 Garacemen** battle defeated Karim khan Zand.

At the beginning of 1753-1754s Fatali khan could spread his authority **Center and South Iran.** But with the support of Iranian government authorities to the Karim khan he lost Shiraz, afterwards Isfahan.This way Fatali khan’s struggle for government was weakened. Taking advantage of this Gajar was active.

* Agha Mohammadhasan khan Gajar **spring in 1755** won on the zands and **in March 1756** entered to the Isfahan.
* **February in 1759** after the killing of Mohammadhasan khan Gajar, Feteli khan continued the policy of occupation Azerbaijan's territories.
* **Spring in 1759** Feteli khan attacked to the **Karabakh** and surrounded Susha. Panahali khan accepted dependence on Urmia.
* In **1763** Karim khan Zand with Karabakh khan attacked to the Urmia khan. **In the middles of the 1763** Urmia city was occupied. Fatali Khan was captured. Karim khan Zand ordered for taking captured Fatali Khan to the Shiraz. Also he, with the excuse of celeberating victory on the Fatali khan Afsar with khans who helped him had offered to go to the Shiraz. Among guests were **Panahali khan, Shahbaz khan** and others. Karim khan Zand executed Fatali khan. When khans reached in Shiraz clarified the essence of the “feast”. This way Karim khan tried to take away khans from their motherland. Hostages Azerbaijan khans’ tried to keep contact with their khanates and return back.

**Shaki khanate(1743-1806)**

* **Shaki khanate** was founded in **1743 by Haji Chalabi**.

Haji Chalabi wanted to add Karabakh lands into Shaki khanate. Therefore he (Haji Chalabi) and the unify troops of Shamakhi khanate could surrounded Karabakh khanate’s central **castle of Bayat.**

* **in 1748,** İn “**Bayat battle” the** allies couldn’t win.

Haji Chalabi for strengthen his authority had used **“marriage diplomacy”.** Therefore **Gazigumuglu Mahammadhasan khan’s** daughter married with the son of **Agakishi bay**. Also **Kabala and Arash** sultanas depended on khanate.

* **In 1751** at the battle between georgians and Shaki khane’s Haji Chalabi had won.
* The tsar **Kakhetia** İrakli II by entering negotations with Panahali khan suggested to make the alliance against Haji Chalabi. Panahali khan agreed with this suggest. Also **Ganja khan’s Shahverdi khan, Garadag khan’s Kazim khan, Nackhivan khan’s Haydargulu khan, Irevan khan’s Huseynali khan** joined this alliance. For merging with Irakli khan went to the Ganja. But the second Irakli deceived them at the **Kizilkaya area** and captured khans. But Haji Chalabi defeated the İrakli II and released khans. Haji Chalabi occupied **Kazakh** and **Borchali** sultanates also. In **1752 Gizilgaya betrayal** showed that Azerbaijani khanates should unify and fight against the enemy together.

Haji Chalabi after the occupied of Kazakh and Borchali sultanates appointed Agakishi bay as a khan.

* **In 1752** the Irakli II attacked to the Jar. But this time also he defeated by Haji Chalabi.
* **In 1755** Haji Chalabi attacked to the Shamakhi (Shirvan). But he couldn’t win. After his death Agakishi (his son) became a khan, later his grandchild Huseyn khan. One of Haji Chalabi’s main aims was to capture Shamakhi khanate. However his dream was realized by Husain Khan.
* In **1767** Hussein Khan and Fatali Khan of Quba captured Shamakhi khanate and divided it among themselves.
* But in **1768** Fatali Khan occupied the lands, which had to be under the rule of Shaki khanate.
* in **1785**, Shaki khanate fell under the rule of Quba khanate, after the death of Fatali khan(1789) it went back to independence again.
* The last khan of Shaki , Selim Khan who came to power in **1795**, ruled the khanate until **1806**.

Territory of the khanate consisted of 8 maghals. Maghals were managed by naibs, which designated by the khan. The main fields of the economy were agriculture crafting and trade. Silk of Shaki was very popular even in the furthest countries.

**Quba khanate(1726-1810)**

**The founder of Quba khanate was a Huseynali khan (1726-1758).** He appointed this position **in 1726** by Russian tsar. His headquarters the first was a **Khudat tower**, since **1735** was a Quba city. **Salyan district** was an important economic role inside the Quba khan.

After died of Huseynanli khan, **Fatali khan (1758- 1789)** had held a tax reformation. According to the **tax reformation** had been abolished to collected taxes by representatives of district. Every kandkhuda (person who leader of village) had to pay taxes to the treasure of khan by himself. Some commitments has been fullfiled by khan guards. Fatali khan in order for increasing the population of the khanate moved people from Azerbaijan south khanats and placed in **Shabran**. For strengthen the state's borders from **Mugan** a half **part of shahseven** tribes moved into the territory of the khanate.

As a result of Fatali khan policy the north of Quba khanate merged**: - 1. Salyan(1756); 2. Darband (1759); 3. Baku (1767); 4.Shamakhi and Javad (1768); 5. Lankaran(1785); 6. Sheki (1788**. In **1773** November, December months **Sheki, Karabakh khanates** at the same time **Avar khanas union troops** marched on Quba khanates. But Fatali khan had overcomed these troops. **On July 1774** near the **Khudat** rural took place **Gavdushan battle.** This battle had happened among union troops under the leadership of some **Azerbaijan and Dagestan authorities** and Fatali khan. Fatali khan was defeated and withdraw to the Salyan district. His enemies occupied Quba and Shamakhi, surrounded Darband. Fatali by applying asked for help to Russia. **March In 1775** support of Russian troops in Darband Fatali khan had won on his enemies.

Between **1780-1781 years** Fatali khan sometimes attached on Karabakh khanate, but these marches had been unsuccessful. In the plans of Fatali khan included to unify of Azerbaijan **south** land’s to his khanate. For this purpose **in 1784** he attacked Azerbaijan’s south areas. Ardabil and Meshkin cities were seized. But he coudn’t strengthened here. Because of his marches **in the southern lands of Azerbaijan** had disturbed Russia. Russia was concerned about strengthhening of Quba Khanate. Because a region close to the borders the existence of strong Azerbaijani state could impede in future in the South Caucasus expansionist policy of Russia. Therefore he returned back. After the death of Fatali khan his sons **Ahmad khan (1789-1791)** and **Sheykali khan (1791-1810)** couldn’t keep the power of the khanate. Therefore Shaki, Baku and Shamakhi khanates had to leave Quba khanate.

**Karabakh khanate(1748-1806)**

Karabakh khanate was founded **in middle of the XVIII century**. The population of the Khanate consisted as **Cavanshir, Iyirmi dord (tweenty four), Otuzikiler (thirty seconds), Kabirli, Ziyadoglu, Baharli** turkish tribes. In Mugan during the coronation of Nadir shah, He exiled them to the Khorasan province and Afghanistan borders**. Panahali khan** founded the Karabakh khanate’s and announced himself a khan **(1748-1763).** Khanate settled the **area between the Kur and Araz**. The center of Karabakh khanate was a Susha city. Here cut off money called **Panahabad.**

**In 1748 at Kabirli district Panahali** khan for protecting khanate from attackes had built the “**Bayat tower”**. In **1751 Sahbulagi** at the begining of 50s he had built **Susha tower**. When Panahali khan strengthening malikians against to him increased. Khan tried to prevented their **dividing (separatism)** policy. The authority of Panah khan recognized the first **Varanda malik’s Shahnazar Malik**. After the **Balligaya defeat Khachin malik’s Malik Mirza Ulubab** recognized authority of Panahali khan. Later, **Dizag, Chilabord, Talish (Gulustan)** maliks accepted Panahali khan’s authority.

Panahali khan by seized **Ganja, Irevan, Nakhcivan and Ardabil** and gave the control to their men.

**Malik Hatam with Talish malik’s Usub** by entering alliance had against to the Panahali khan. But they were defeated at the **Agdere battle**. **In 1757** Mohammadhasan khan Gajar attacked to Karabakh. At the “**Khatun Arkhi”** place Panahali khan won and got enemie’s 2 balls. In **1759** Urmia Fatali khan Afshar attacked to Susha. Panahali khan accepted dependence on him. After the death of Panahali khan his son **Ibrahimkhalil khan (1763-1806)** come to power. Disag, Chilabord and Gulustan maliks’ refused to obey to the İbrahimkhalil khan. But Varanda malik’s Shahnazar and Khachin malik’s Mirza khan entered alliance with Iblil khan.

**In 1781** Ibrahimkhalil khan together with his allies had obeyed to himself Disag malik’s. Since, **1783** Ibrahimkhalil khan and among his government refusing maliks’ with Russia's pressure fighting intensified further. Russia, support of these maliks’ tried to create a new “**Christian state”.** But a great diplomacy of ability Ibrahimkhalil khan could concentrate all maliks’to Susha and he arrested them. But they could escape from Susha prison. They come to Tbilisi and with the support of II Irakli and **colonel Burnashov** began to preparations. Their plan was to kill Karabakh khan. **September in 1787** they reached to Ganja. But **1787-1791 years starting of Russia-Ottoman war** was a reason stops this **“cross -march”.** So, İbrahimkhalil khan could keep the integrity of the Karabakh khanate.

# Struggling of khanates to unity lands of Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan khanates after the restoration of its statehood started to carry an independent foreign policy.**Urmia, Shaki, Guba and Garadag** khanates in the foreign policy specially focused on joined lands of Azerbaijan. İn order to realize these goals Azerbaijan khanates especially tried to create relevant relationships among **İran, Ottoman state, Russia and Georgia.** After the death of Nadir shah **Karim khan Zand** until the establishment of the state (1747-XVIII century beginning of 60s) **Urmia khanate** in İran was foughting on the central power to seize power. Karim Khan Zand, acting quickly and could depend on his power Azerbaijani South khanates. He also tried to conquer with Azerbaijan North khanates too. As known Karim khan Zand and his partner Panahali khan after the win on Urmia Fatali khan Afshar started to interference in internal affairs of Karabakh.

After the **Kicik Gaynarcha contract (1774)** convergence between the Osmanlı Empire and the khanates of Azerbaijan increased. **In 1785 Karabakh, Shaki and Quba** khanates sent messengers to Istanbul. But Ottoman Empire not wishing to complicate, relations refused official comment on the show. **This way at the Ottoman-Russia war** deprived itself from the support khanates of Azerbaijan. This situation caused a good condition in this territory for Russia. Russia tried to keep friendship relations with **North khanates of Azerbaijan**. Russia during the war with Ottoman Empire was trying to achieve that khanates of Azerbaijan shouldn’t to be in the name of any state.

Fatali khan after the defeat of Gavdushan was trying to restore previous condition. He paid special attention to restore diplomatic relations with Russia. For this purpose **in 1775 spring** he sent Darband’s ruler **Mirzabay Farhadbayov** as a messenger to the Russia’s palace. The letter was written to the tsaritsa indicated that Fathali khan will remain loyal to this friendship and will support of Russian’s traders.

Russia supposedly took into consideration Quba khanate as a part of the Iran and he respect to neighborly relations with Iran rejected Fatali khan’s proposal. Thus, the first visit of khanates of Azerbaijan had concluded unsuccessful. **In 1787** 12 messengers of Guba khanate under the leadership of **Mirza Sadig Mammadaliyev** had gone to Petersburg.The letter was written to the tsaritsa had indicated that he will remain loyal to this friendship. But unfortunately this visit also resulted unsuccessful.

**June 24, in 1783 in Georgiyevk** signed **a treatise** for passing Georgian’s lands into Russian patronage. Irakli II has accepted the power Russian’s tsar. Russia guaranteed the integrity of power Irakli II and protect of Kartli-Kahetiya crown. Russia also had to protect from foreign attacks. The heir to the throne crown had to be approved in Petersburg. II Irakli internal management studies keps independence, in foreign policy would consulted with Russian officer who was sitting in Tbilisi. **In 1783 20 August** in Caucasus under the leadership of Russian troops **P.S.Potyomkin** had applied to the Azerbaijan khanates about the signed treatise ordinances. The condition between Ganja khanate and Georgian was very tense. **In 1786** at last he achieved this indepence. Javad Khan by pursuesing an independent policy, put an end to dependence with Georgia. Thus, XVIII **century 40-80s** khanates of Azerbaijan tried to active foreign policy. The main goal of this policy was that to preserve the independence and the existence of khanates. But, unfortunately this kind of policy was not always accessible. The only way would be to found centralized state.

# 3.Struggle against to the foreign invaders

**The second half of the XVIII century** unification of Azerbaijani lands as part of a single state failed. İn contrast to Azerbaijan in İran struggling on power concluded a centralized state. **Agha Mohammad khan Gajar (1781-1797)** was led state.After the death of Karim khan Zand he occupied Isfahan, Mazandaran and **in 1781 Gilan**, thus he could obtained the centralized power. **In 1785 Tehran has declared the capital. In the early 90s** Agha Mohammad khan Gajar started to follow **southern areas of Azerbaijan**.**Sarab, Garadag, Khoy and Urmia** had been obeyed. Thus, Azerbaijan's southern lands were under the power of Agha Mohammad khan Gajar.

Aga Muhammad shah Gajar started to attack with 100 thousands person troop in 3 direction to nothern azerbaijan in summer of the 1795:

1.The first bunch passed from Mugan and Shirvan, then they had to hit to Daghistan.

2.The Second bunch had to occupy Nakchivan and Shirvan khanates.

3. The third bunch had to capture Garabagh then attack to Georgia under the leadership of Aga Muhammad shah Gajar.

The troops of Gajar besieged(muhasireye aldilar) Shusha in the end of summer of 1795.But 33 days blockade was no result. Could not capture Shusha ,then Gajar moved towards Tiflis in august and he captured Tiflis in the 12 september of the 1795.Lack of food supply of troop, threat of attack of Russian troops(Rus qosunlarinin hucum tehlukesi) caused to leave Tiflis of Gajar. Thus Aga Muhammad shah Gajar left Northen lands of Azerbaijan in the beginning of 1796.

It started military campaigns of Zubov to Azerbaijan in 18 April of the 1796. Attacked to Darband(**May 1796**) ,Guba(6 June 1796) and Russian captured Baki in 13 of the June. Russian military bunchs were lost(uduzur) by 500 thousands person United forces of Sheykhali khan and Gazigumukh in Alpan region. And The other attacks of Russian was no result. **İn 1796 November** death of Ekaterina II changed the condition. Tsar Pavel I who came to power commanded to leave Russians’ troops from North lands of Azerbaijan. This process continued **till of 1797 spring**.

After left the Russian troops’ Azerbaijan Gajar began to realize his plans by occupying lands of Azerbaijan. **In 1797** Agha Mohammad khan Gajar again attacked to Susha. He occupied Susha city. And began to punishment in city. Javad khan Ganja, Huseyngulu khan Baku, Ibrahimkhalil khan his deputy assistant were imprisoned. Mustafa khan Shamakhi, Salim khan Shaki accepted his authority. Sheykali khan Quba was ready for his service. Because of he promised him to allow control of Baku khanate. **On 4 June 1797** Gajar was killed by his close men. After his death Iranians troops reckless went to South.